

N E W S R E L E A S E

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Governor appoints Pamela Harris of Placerville to high-ranking state position

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has appointed Pamela Harris of Placerville chief deputy director for the Employment Development Department (EDD), a 10,000 employee agency that provides a wide variety of employment and tax collection services.

"Pam Harris brings a wealth of knowledge, wide ranging experience, and superb leadership skills to her new position," EDD director Patrick Henning said. "From her years serving in a variety of assignments at EDD, most recently as acting deputy director, Ms. Harris has developed a comprehensive understanding of the Department and a deep appreciation of our people. She knows how to work well with people, as an effective team leader and as a persuasive voice for the Department."

"Her advanced training in information technology has given her valuable insights in this increasingly important area," Henning said. "Among her achievements are her work in establishing information security and business continuity plans for EDD and her leadership of audits of statewide programs and information technology systems."

Harris, a graduate of California State University, Sacramento, has 29 years of state service, serving in a variety of positions in EDD, and recently as assistant secretary of research, evaluation and information technology with the Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

Harris' family roots in El Dorado County date to the 1860s and the origins of the local timber industry. In the late 1950s, her parents, the late Blair and Irene Harris, pioneered the ranch marketing approach to selling agricultural products in El Dorado County, by offering "Choose and Cut" Christmas Trees at the Harris Tree Farm. The farm, on site of the original Mathew Blair homestead in Pollock Pines, continues to operate today.

Harris was born in Placerville, and graduated from El Dorado High School. She continues the family tradition of participating in local agriculture activities, currently serving on the Board of Directors of the El Dorado County Christmas Tree Growers Association.

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